

Effect Upon The Wives

The First Lady commented on the "painful" experience for wives like Mrs. Haldeman (shown here picking up yesterday morning's newspaper at her door)

Washington

PAT NIXON, silent about the erupting Watergate scandal until her husband's televised address to the nation Monday, said yesterday she believed the events would be particularly tragic for Joanne Haldeman and Jeanne Ehrlichman, wives of the two top White House aides who resigned.

"Mrs. Nixon said that they were two such very fine women whom she had been friendly with for a very long time," said Helen Smith, press secretary to the First Lady. "Mrs. Nixon said she felt this would be very painful for their families."

Neither Mrs. Haldeman, wife of H. R. Haldeman, outgoing White House chief of staff; Mrs. Ehrlichman, wife of John D. Ehrlichman, outgoing domestic affairs



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chief; nor Margaret Kleindienst, wife of outgoing Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst, would talk about the case or their plans.

A close friend of Maureen Dean, wife of ousted White House chief counsel John W. Dean III, said Mrs. Dean was "doing fine" and had said very little about the case.

"I just talked with her



JULIE EISENHOWER
Particularly concerned

yesterday (Monday), and she seemed to be in good spirits," the friend said.

Until about noon yesterday, Mrs. Nixon was unreachable, even to members of her own staff.

When Mrs. Smith finally talked with the First Lady, she said the conversation was brief. "She knew I had been trying to get her and she didn't want to talk to anybody," Mrs. Smith said. "She obviously feels very deeply about this and is quite upset."

Mrs. Smith said the First Lady, her daughter Tricia Cox, and her son-in-law David Eisenhower, had watched the President's message.

Shortly after the speech, Mrs. Smith said, Tricia Cox sent word to the White House switchboard that the family did not wish to be disturbed unless a call came through from the Nixons' younger daughter, Julie Eisenhower, who was in Florida for a series of official appearances.

The younger Nixon daughter has been particularly concerned about the Watergate events, Mrs. Smith said. At a recent White House dinner, when David Eisenhower mentioned to a guest he had narrowed his choice of writing jobs down to two, his listener said, "If you get a newspaper job, I'll bet your first assignment will be the Watergate story."

Julie Eisenhower's smiling face was said to have instantly turned sober. Earlier in the week, when asked about the scandal during a news conference in Minnesota, Mrs. Eisenhower said:



MRS. KLEINDIENST
She wouldn't talk

"I am proud of my father and I am sad to see this happening because I feel he has done so much for the country."

A second member of the First Lady's press staff, Terry Ivey, said that Mrs. Nixon had seemed unusually withdrawn this week, but that it had come as no surprise.

"What can she say?" Miss Ivey said. "I don't blame her for not wanting to talk to anybody about it. I wouldn't want to either. What can you do? You support your husband. You believe he's doing the right thing. You're upset when he's upset."

"I know they've been through other things before, but this has certainly got to be the most serious. It's more than just the personal disappointment of losing an election. This is something that affects the whole country."

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